REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

In the specification

The specification has been amended to more clearly describe the present invention in view of the illustrations, and to provide literal antecedent basis for amendments to the claims. The amendments of the specification are fully supported by the figures, and therefore no new matter is added.

Rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Alizadeh et al (U.S. 6,142,733). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly set forth the present invention. The amendment is supported by Figs. 1-6 of the present application. According to amended claim 1, fluid control elements are provided in a fan assembly supporting a hub seat within a frame, a fan being supported within the frame by the hub seat. The fluid control elements are radially arranged at the outlet of the frame, each of the fluid control elements being connected at an outer end to the frame and at an inner end to the hub. The outer end forms a directional-guide section, and the inner end forms a connecting section. The directional guide section has a uniform first axial length, and the connecting section has a uniform second axial length, wherein the first axial length is greater than the second axial length.

Thus, it can be recognized that the directional-guide section is a radially outer portion of a fluid control element (blade) that is axially longer than the connecting section (inner portion).

It is respectfully submitted that Alizadeh fails to disclose or suggest each and every element set forth in claim 1 of the present application, and therefore the present invention is not anticipated by Alizadeh.

Alizadeh fails to disclose or suggest fluid control elements that have an outer portion (fluid control element) and an inner portion (connecting section), wherein the outer portion has a uniform first axial length, the inner portion has a uniform second axial length, and that the first axial length is greater than the second axial length. Stated differently, Alizadeh fails to disclose or suggest fluid control elements that have clearly defined outer and inner portions.

There is no teaching or suggestion within Alizadeh of stator blades having a separately defined fluid control element (outer portion) and a connecting section (inner portion). While Alizadeh's Figs. 2 and 9 show a curvature of a leading edge of a stator blade, there is no teaching or suggestion of any separately defined portions (outer, fluid control element and inner, connecting section) of the stator blade. On the contrary, Alizadeh teaches that "the leading edge 11 of each stator blade 9 defines ***a*** contour which corresponds to the contour produced by rotation of the trailing edge 106 of the fan blades" (*Alizadeh*; col. 5, lines 40-45). Thus, the entire leading edge appears to be considered as ***a*** single contour, suggesting the teaching of a stator blade defining only a single, contoured section and not an outer portion (fluid control element) and an inner portion (connecting section), wherein the outer portion has a uniform first axial length, the inner portion has a uniform second axial length, and that the first axial length is greater than the second axial length.

Moreover, the claimed outer portion (fluid control element) and inner portion (connecting section) are each defined by a ***uniform*** axial length, wherein the axial length of the portion (fluid control element), is greater than the axial length of the inner portion (connecting section).

Alizadeh provides no teaching or suggestion of a stator blade having an outer portion and an inner portion that are ***each*** defined by a ***uniform*** axial length. Instead,

Alizadeh teaches a ***single, curved*** leading edge profile that extends along the entire length of a stator blade.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-3 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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